

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:EEC,SHUM
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1.THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,AND
THE EC COMMISSION ARE PREPARING TO ISSUE A JOINT DECLARATION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COMMUNITY.THE COMMISSION ON
MARCH 3 ANNOUNCED ITS APPROVAL OF THAT JOINT DECLARATION,
WHICH WAS PASSED ON FEBRUARY 10 BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
AND SENT IT TO THE COUNCIL,WHERE APPROVAL IS EXPECTED
MARCH 8.

2.THE FULL TEXT OF THE DECLARATION FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

JOINT DECLARATION

BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION
"THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION-
"WHEREAS THE TREATIES ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR LAW,
"WHEREAS,AS THE COURT OF JUSTICE HAS RECOGNIZED,
THIS LAW INCLUDES,IN ADDITION TO THE RULES OF THE
TREATIES AND OF SECONDARY COMMUNITY LEGISLATION,THE
GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN
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PARTICULAR,THESE PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS BEING THOSE
ON WHICH THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE MEMBER STATES
IS BASED,
"WHEREAS,IN PARTICULAR,ALL THE MEMBER STATES ARE
CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
SIGNED IN ROME ON 4 NOVEMBER 1950,

"HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

" 1.THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION STRESS THE PRIME IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE PROTECTON OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT AS EMBODIED INTER ALIA IN THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

"2.IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR DUTIES AND IN PURSUANCE OF THE AIMS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES THEY RESPECT AND WILL CONTINUE TO RESPECT THESE RIGHTS."
END TEXT.

3.ORIGINS OF THE DECLARATION GO BACK TO A MAY 1974 GERMAN FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT DECISION THAT CRITICIZED THE COMMUNITY FOR HAVING NO WRITTEN BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROTECT INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AGAINST ANY VIOLATIONS THATMIGHT BE COMMITTED BY COMMUNITY INSTITUIONS. THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED -- AND REJECTED -- TRYING TO CODIFY HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE COMMUNITY,AND SETTLED ON A SHORT DECLARATION CONFIRMING RESPECT FOR THOSE RIGHTS,AS DEFINED IN THE CONSTITUIONS OF MEMBER STATES AND IN THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

4.THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT,THE CONCIL, AND THE COMMISSION ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN THE DECLARATION IN A SOLEMN CEREMONY WITH ATTENDANT MEDIA COVERAGE. THE CEREMONY MAY TAKE PLACE AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME MARCH 25-26.
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5.SINCE THE COUNCIL HAS STILL TO GIVE ITS FORMAL APPROVAL,CHANGES IN THE ABOVE TEXT ARE STILL POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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